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5 SHORT-TERM USE AND LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

5.1 Relationship between Short-Term Use of the Environment and Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity

The proposed Green/Duwamish River restoration program would restore or improve habitat for anadromous fish, and benefit wildlife resources. These activities will restore a portion of the historic habitat conditions and functions within the Green River Basin. The principal goal of the program is to achieve long-term enhancement of biological and natural resource productivity in the restoration areas. The proposed program is expected to reduce the harmful effects of human short-term uses of the environment that have occurred over time, and to promote long-term productivity within these restoration areas. This program will result in an improved productivity condition within the watershed that will benefit aquatic and terrestrial resources.

5.2 Probable Irretrievable and Irreversible Commitments of Resources

The proposed restoration program would not entail any significant irretrievable or irreversible commitments of resources. Construction of some habitat improvements would require consumption of petroleum products, and importing materials such as rock, soil, gravel, and vegetation. Construction of structures such as culverts will require building materials such as steel, wood, plastic, or concrete, all resources that are plentiful and recyclable if so desired. The restoration projects would entail long-term commitment of land for fish and wildlife habitat purposes in lieu of other possible societal uses.